

duties which I am as a true follower of Jesus Christ under obligation to discharge.

First, there are duties which I owe to myself in order to attain the highest development. I must familiarize myself with God's word and by prayer and devotion come to as full a knowledge of his will as I may.

Having developed myself as best I may I am ready to discharge my second duty more easily and efficiently. This is my duty to my fellow-man. Christ says, "Go ye therefore into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation." R. V. To me it seems that if one has experienced the love of God in his heart he cannot but show it abroad in his life and will long to have others experience the same joy and peace of mind that he possesses. So to me my duty seems clear that I shall endeavor with all my power to take the blessed message of salvation to suffering humanity.

Last and greatest is the duty of love and service which I owe my God for his goodness and mercy to me. For while I was yet a sinner, in due time Christ died for me." When I think of all these things words fail me to express my unworthiness and I say with the psalmist, "Many, O Lord my God are the wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us ward: they cannot be set in order unto thee; if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered." R. V. And so I give myself and my all to Him and pray that it may be said of me that I delighted to do God's will.

DYOLL BELOTE.

Among the scenes of my early life around which cling the holy recollections of childhood, I remember always with a reverent fondness, a church building that stood in our door yard and in whose shadow I played day after day. With what interest I watched the birds that haunted the latticed belfry; how I admired the artless vines that clambered over the walls; how my heart was stirred by the music that floated out on the Sabbath morning air; withal that church always threw over me a worshipful feeling, it made a solemn impression I shall never forget. As it appealed to me then, so the church appeals to me now tho in a clearer sense. It is emblematic of the true and the beautiful and of the immortal.

The church gives me an ideal. Recently there appeared in one of our popular journals a poem containing lines well-nigh as meaningful as Kipling's far-famed strain, "Lest we forget." They run:

"When my soul swoons, when my ideals fade,  
Strength of my strength, come then unto my aid!"

"When my ideals fade"—then there befalls a misfortune from which I rightfully shrink. When your ideals fade you need the company of the pure in heart, the uplifting influence of the noble, you need to feel the transforming power of the sublimely inspired and the awakening touch of love and sympathy. The members of God's church are the souls who possess the virtues of whose

inspiration and influence you stand in need. Who can so purify the world in which you move as they who are washed in the cleansing blood of the Lamb? Who can so strengthen your faint heart as they who find their strength in Christ, the Infinite Strength? Who can so console your troubled, restless spirit as those whose lives are tranquil in God? The church affords me the influence of men and women who help me to realize the ideal she holds before us all. For the church has but one ideal. That is the One Altogether Lovely, the Perfect One, Christ Jesus, the Redeemer of the world and the Founder of the church. Constantly she keeps that ideal before me. Her services of work and worship in their minutest details are for him. He is the soul of her hymns, her prayers, her teachings. For his glory thru the salvation of men she exists. The church gives me the Christ-ideal; that is the greatest of the blessings for which I am grateful to her.

Another incalculable blessing is the field of service she offers me. Her unity of purpose, her power and her admirable system of working combine to form an unequalled opportunity for the service of mankind and thus the glorification of the Master. I account it a supreme privilege to be a co-worker with the multitudes whose sole aim is the redemption of the world for the glory of God. Even from a selfish point of view it is a rare privilege. It makes one a brother or a sister of earth's greatest and best, a partaker of their joy, a partner in their divine mission. It elevates, refines and educates. It enlarges my vision, broadens my life and fills every day with gladness.

A third blessing the church bestows upon me is the fellowship and communion of saints. It is a blessed thing to mingle with Christian people. There is an unconscious but none the less influential power in a good life or a lovely character. In the fellowship of the church one has complete companionship with the good. I have ever been deeply grateful that my lot has been cast in the visible kingdom. Communion with believers has increased the Kingdom in my heart. It is a foretaste of the inseparable companionship of the heavenly world.

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With only a day's notice it is difficult to tell briefly and concisely the benefits I derive from the church.

The subject is a large one. The church stands for everything that is good and pure and beautiful and is opposed to all that is mean and low and degrading. Every pure emotion, every noble sentiment that has found expression in the world to day has been sanctioned by the church.

It is difficult to estimate the condition into which society would relapse should the church and all its influences be suddenly removed from the world.

In the church I find food for the soul. My

thoughts are directed onward and upward. My nature is softened and refined. The gentler emotions of the soul are cultivated and a desire to live a higher and sublime life created.

Here I am constantly having visions of greater fields of usefulness and my ideal is ever broadening into the Infinite.

Just as two persons who have lived harmoniously together all their lives grow more and more like unto each other, so in waiting constantly upon the Lord and obediently performing his service I become more and more God-like.

Just as a home is necessary for the greatest development of man socially, so a church home is necessary for the greatest development of man spiritually. Man is ever growing into his ideals and it is impossible for him to rise higher than his ideals.

The moral man has nothing higher than self to attain unto. His end of perfection is limited and is known from the beginning. But the Christians ideal is found outside of himself and is limitless.

I partake of material food to sustain my physical life. So I must partake of spiritual food to sustain my spiritual life. It is as impossible for the one to live without nourishment as it is for the other. This nourishment is found in the church of God.

In the church I am associated with the purest and best society humanity affords. Here I have for my brothers and sisters those whom Christ himself hath said are "the light of the world," "the salt of the earth," and how could I do without them?

In the business life I must have the help and co operation of others. So in the spiritual life I must have the help of these good people or my life fails to accomplish its full mission.

In the church I have the peace in knowing I am doing what is right. I know I am supporting a winning cause—for God is stronger than Satan, heaven stronger than hell. I know people expect more of me because I am a Christian than they would were I not and that very fact gives strength in the hour of trial.

In conclusion then, the church gives me a safe anchor and guide to conduct in this life and the hope of eternal life to come.

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#### AN INTERESTING DEFINITION

B. C. MOOMAW

Some one has defined civilization as "a bundle of wants." We think it is much more than this, but at the same time the aforesaid definition is suggestive of at least some features of what is known as civilization. If judged by the absence of wants, the life of the primitive savage was simplicity itself. He only wanted enough to eat, and was extremely careless concerning variety or quality. The skin of a wild animal made his costume; a cave was his mansion; a club his weapon. This creature was our ancestor